

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-64, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 65-83 as follows:

1. (Original) A device for sampling or collecting comprising
 - i) a swab which is a natural or synthetic absorbent material comprising gelatine particles or collagen particles ; and
 - ii) a support fixed to said swab.

2-64. (Cancelled)

65. (New) The device according to claim 1, wherein the gelatine or collagen are of natural or synthetic origin, such as from a mammal such as marine mammals, porcine, bovine or from fish, crayfish or vegetables.

66. (New) The device according to claim 1, wherein the swab has a content of gelatine particles or collagen particles, preferably gelatine particles, of 1-95% wt/wt based upon the combined dry weight of the swab and the particles, such as 2-90%, typically 5-90%.

67. (New) A kit comprising

- i) a swab which is a natural or synthetic absorbent material comprising gelatine particles or collagen particles and wherein a support is fixed to the swab ; and
- ii) an agent selected from the group consisting of a neutral diluent, an anti-microbial agent and a dispersion agent.

68. (New) The kit according to claim 67, wherein said neutral diluent is selected from the group consisting of saline, saline peptone, buffered saline peptone, Ringer solution and an organic or inorganic buffer.

69. (New) The kit according to claim 67, wherein the gelatine or collagen are of natural or synthetic origin, such as from a mammal such as marine mammals, porcine, bovine or from fish, crayfish or vegetables.

70. (New) The kit according to claim 67, wherein the swab has a content of gelatine particles or collagen particles, preferably gelatine particles, of 1-95% wt/wt based upon the combined dry weight of the swab and the particles, such as 2-90%, typically 5-90%.

71. (New) Use of a device as defined in claim 1 for collection of a target from a collection medium comprising making contact between the swab and the target.

72. (New) Use of a kit as defined in claim 67 for collection of a target from a collection medium comprising making contact between the swab and the target.

73. (New) A method of lowering the amount of a target in a sample area comprising making contact between a swab comprising gelatine or collagen and at least a portion of said sample area, to an extent that the target adheres to the swab.

74. (New) The method according to claim 70 further comprising the step of transfer of the target from the sponge to a first transfer medium.

75. (New) The method according to claim 74, wherein the transfer comprises the digestion of the gelatine or collagen.

76. (New) The method according to claim 74, wherein the transfer comprises the mechanical transfer of the target from the gelatine or collagen to a second transfer medium.

77. (New) The method according to claim 74, wherein the transfer comprises washing of a target from the gelatine or collagen.

78. (New) A method of qualitatively or quantitatively sampling an area for content of a target comprising the use of a gelatine-based sponge and the steps of

- i) wet sampling using a swab comprising gelatine or collagen; and/or
- ii) dry-sampling using a swab comprising gelatine or collagen.

79. (New) The method according to claim 78, wherein the target is selected from the group consisting of a virus, a micro-organism, a mammalian cell and an organic molecule.

80. (New) The method according to claim 78 further comprising the step of transfer of the target from the sponge to a first transfer medium.

81. (New) A method for culturing of collected micro-organisms or mammalian cells comprising adhering the cells to a gelatine-based sponge and culturing the cells in a growth medium.

82. (New) The method according to claim 81, wherein the growth medium is added to the gelatine-based sponge.

83. (New) The method according to claim 81, wherein the gelatine-based sponge is incubated in a liquid growth medium.